



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: May 28, 2011

Contact: Monique Farmer 402-995-2420

Monique.l.farmer@usace.army.mil

Greg Carpenter 605-224-5962 x3309

Gregory.n.carpenter@usace.army.mil

Corps emphasizes high water hazards; stresses priority of public safety

Omaha, Neb. – During record high releases from Oahe Dam, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is urging residents of Pierre and Fort Pierre, South Dakota to take additional safety measures when boating in or walking along the Missouri River. Even experienced boaters will find conditions in the river to be both hazardous and unfamiliar due to the historical nature of this flooding event. Particular attention should be made to the following points:

- *New No Wake Zones:* the area between the Bad River and Oahe Dam is now a “No Wake Zone” in order to protect waterfront homes and property from additional wave and flood damage.
- *Stilling basin channel is now off limits to boaters:* due to extremely strong currents and changing outflows boats must stay out of this area for safety purposes.
- *Unstable bank footing & erosion:* avoid standing on top of steep cut banks along the shoreline. Riverbanks can be unstable and prone to undermining erosion, bank sluffing, and mini landslides that can wash a person into the current.
- *Wear a life jacket:* boaters are strongly encouraged to stay out of swift waters and to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket at all times while boating.
- *Do not allow children to play in flood waters:* waters can be contaminated and, in some places, hidden holes, debris, and washouts lie under the surface.
- *Do not walk through moving water:* six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- *Do not drive through a flooded area:* during floods more people drown in their cars than anywhere else. If you come upon a road barrier, turn around and go another way. If you must drive down a shallow water covered urban street, drive slowly and be courteous. Vehicles will cause a wave of water that can overtop sandbags and cause further damage to property. Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling. A foot of water will float many vehicles. Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and pick-ups.

-more-

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Omaha District 1616 Capitol Ave., Omaha, Neb. 68102

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/>

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/OmahaUSACE](https://www.facebook.com/OmahaUSACE) and on Twitter at twitter.com/OmahaUSACE

[Type text]

- *Watch for animals – especially snakes:* small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn items over and scare away small animals.
- *Stay away from power lines and electrical wires:* the number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Power Company or local authorities immediately.
- *Situational Awareness:* please keep abreast of the latest news, read your local paper and listen to your local radio stations for safety and news updates. Please follow the safety and precautionary guidelines set forth by your federal, state, and local government entities.

Public safety and the prevention of loss of life are the top priorities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During any flood response activities throughout the entire Missouri River basin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide regular updates directly to the public via its Facebook (www.facebook.com/OmahaUSACE) and Twitter accounts (www.twitter.com/OmahaUSACE).

View daily and forecast reservoir and river information on the Water Management section of the Northwestern Division homepage at: <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc>.

###